

## STREBEL, Alda McDonald

After twelve happy years as members of the Heber Second Ward, the time came for the George L. Strebels' to move their family and journey to Berkeley, California to continue on with my husbands education in pursuit of a Ph.D. degree.

The Sunday before we were to leave, George and I came out

258

of the ward house after the congregation had left. D.A. Broadbent, our former stake president, was waiting for us on the steps. He took both of our hands and with a voice influenced by the Holy Spirit, assured us we were taking the right step—to go away to school. President Broadbent promised us spiritual blessings. He also told us there would be evil spirits placing stumbling block in our way, but if we would stand firm with the faith of Job, we would come through as polished diamonds prepared to serve our Heavenly Father during this life and throughout Eternity.

Later on in the afternoon we visited with Brother and Sister John A. Fortie who lived near us in the ward. Brother Fortie was our Stake Patriarch and was bedfast from the effects of a serious stroke. When we arrived at their house, Sister Fortie told us her husband was in a coma and would not know us. As George lovingly held his hand, he opened his eyes, called George by name, and with a voice filled with the Holy Spirit pronounced the same promises as President Broadbent had made earlier in the day.

We now felt assured that we had a spiritual and refining experience ahead of us. The road would not always be easy. Many times we remembered the faith promoting experiences of that day, helping us to keep the faith. We now are able to see and understand the refining influences that come through the trial of our faith.

— 259 —